

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for manufacturing a customized coin having a plurality of coin layers, comprising the steps of:

5 producing a first coin layer from a precious metal using mass production techniques; creating a second coin layer using a material that is less expensive than the first coin layer; customizing the second coin layer with a customized image; adhering the first and second coin layers together, the customized image being 10 configured to be viewed by a coin viewer.

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of customizing the second coin layer with an image, further comprises the step of engraving or sublimating the customized image on the second coin layer.

15 3. A method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of producing the first coin layer using a precious metal selected from the group consisting of gold, silver, and platinum.

20 4. A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of producing the second coin layer further comprises the step of producing the second coin layer using a less precious metal that is selected from the group consisting of aluminum, brass, bronze and anodized metal.

25 5. A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of producing the second coin layer further comprises the step of producing the second coin layer using a less precious engraveable material selected from the group consisting of plastic, wood, stone, glass, and paper.

30 6. A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of producing the second coin layer further comprises the step of creating the second coin layer using manufacturing processes selected from the group consisting of cloisonné, cloisonné epoxy-dome, casting, die struck, die cast, soft-enamel, printed paper, engraved wood, soldering, gluing, and roll and press.

7. A method as in claim 6, wherein the step of producing the second coin layer further comprises the steps of:
 - applying a plurality of layers over the first coin layer; and
 - using a plurality of manufacturing processes to apply the plurality of layers.
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8. A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of producing a first coin layer further comprises the step of producing the first coin layer made of a precious metal using mass production techniques selected from the group consisting of die stamping, casting, or die striking.
- 10 9. A method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of detaching the first coin layer and second coin layer in order to refurbish the first coin layer and attach an additional coin layer over the first coin layer.
10. A customized coin containing a plurality of coin layers, comprising:
 - 15 a first coin layer made of a precious metal using mass production techniques;
 - a second coin layer using a material that is less expensive than the first coin layer, the second coin layer having a customized engraved image on a surface of the second coin layer; and
 - an adhesive layer, located between the first and second coin layers, configured to affix the first and second coin layers together, the customized engraved image on the second coin layer being viewable.
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11. A coin as in claim 10, wherein the first coin layer is a precious metal selected from the group consisting of gold, silver, and platinum.
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12. A coin as in claim 10, wherein the second coin layer is a less precious material that is selected from the group consisting of aluminum, brass, bronze, and anodized metal.
13. A coin as in claim 10, wherein the second coin layer is a less precious engraveable material.
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14. A coin as in claim 10, wherein the second coin layer is selected from group consisting of plastic, wood, stone, and glass.

15. A coin as in claim 10, further comprising a third coin layer containing precious or semi-precious stones.
- 5 16. A coin as in claim 10, wherein the customized engraved image represents an event in an individual's life history.
- 10 17. A coin as in claim 16, further comprising a plurality of coins each being engraved with an image that represents an event in an individual's life history to form an overall life history.
18. A coin as in claim 10, further comprising a serial number engraved on the coin, the serial number having information selected from the group consisting of a batch number, a mold number, a sequence number, an event number, a design number and a cast number.
- 15 19. A coin as in claim 18, further comprising a plurality of serial numbers engraved on the coin.
- 20 20. A coin as in claim 10, further comprising a bezel on a side of the coin that is configured to attach an additional layer to the coin.
21. A coin as in claim 20, further comprising a crystal or glass layer on a side of the coin that is held in place by the bezel.
- 25 22. A coin as in claim 10, further comprising a customized engraved image that is a collectable image or memorabilia.
23. A coin as in claim 10, wherein the coin is spendable at a pre-defined location or event.

24. A layered memory object, comprising:

- a base object layer made of a precious metal;
- a second object layer being made from a material that is less expensive than the first object layer, the second object layer having a customized image; and
- 5 an adhesive layer, located between the first and second object layer, configured to affix the first and second object layers together, the customized image on the second object layer being viewable.

25. A layered memory object as in claim 24, wherein the customized engraved image represents an event selected from the group comprising a pre-determined date, a time, a 10 person, a life event, an anniversary, a birthday, a wedding, and an award.

26. A layered memory object as in claim 24, wherein the customized engraved image represents a person in a family in order to form a family tree from a plurality of the 15 layered memory objects.

27. A layered memory object as in claim 24, wherein the customized engraved image represents an award selected from the group consisting of service quality, length of service, work for a specific business, and excellence in a defined area.

28. A layered memory object as in claim 24, wherein the customized engraved image represents the authenticity certification for a collectible item.

29. A layered memory object as in claim 24, wherein a substrate is used to support the base 25 object layer and second object layer, the substrate being selected from the group comprising a memory box, picture frame, identification badge, food packaging, product packaging, and a trophy.

30. A layered memory object as in claim 29, wherein the identification badge can be used to manage the disbursement of restricted items to a user of the identification badge.

31. A layered memory object as in claim 24, wherein the layered memory object is used for an awards program.

32. A layered memory object as in claim 24, wherein the layered memory object includes a base object layer and a second object layer that are adhered to the substrate in a temporary fashion in order to allow the base object layer and second object layer to be re-arranged
5 with respect to the substrate.

33. A layered memory object as in claim 24, wherein the layered memory object includes an attachable object configured to be removably attached to the substrate.

10 34. A layered memory object as in claim 24, wherein the base object layer and second object layer are combined to form a tracking device and a memorabilia device for the substrate object.

15 35. A layered memory object as in claim 25, wherein the customized image is engraved on the second object layer.

36. A layered memory object as in claim 25, wherein the customized image is engraved by a laser on the second object layer.

20 37. A layered memory object as in claim 25, wherein the customized image is sublimated on the second object layer.

38. A layered memory object as in claim 25, further comprising a plurality of fragmentary parts that can be layered on the second object layer in an artistic fashion.
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39. A layered memory object having a long mark used on the layered memory object in object locations where more image space is available and a short mark used on the layered memory object in locations on the layered memory object where less image space is available.

30 40. A layered memory object configured as a matte board, comprising:
a base paper layer;

a first colored paper layer adhered to the base paper layer and having a first customized image; and

a second colored paper layer adhered to an opposing side of the base paper layer and having a second customized image to form a double sided matte board.

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41. A layered memory object as in claim 40, further comprising the step of adding a layer of white paper over the first colored paper layer and an additional layer of colored paper over the white paper layer.
- 10 42. A layered memory object as in claim 40, further comprising a plurality of additional layers of white and colored paper layers.
43. A layered memory object configured as a paper currency memorabilia, comprising:
 - a base paper layer;
 - 15 a first colored paper layer adhered to the base paper layer and having a first customized memorabilia image formed into the colored paper layer; and
 - a second colored paper layer adhered to the opposite side of the base paper layer and having a second customized memorabilia image formed into the second colored paper layer to form a double sided matte board.
- 20 44. A layered memory object as in claim 43, further comprising a laser cut first and second customized image in the first and second colored paper layers.